On November 19, Mayor Breed announced the “Love Our City Holiday Eco Blitz.” The Eco Blitz is a 24 hour a day, two month initiative to clean up the city for the holiday weekend between Black Friday and the end of the holiday shopping season. However, an unfortunate side effect of these efforts we have seen repeatedly has been the sweeping of poor and unhoused people out of downtown San Francisco in the name of street cleanliness or “going green.” Breed announced her holiday theme alongside the city’s most notorious conductors of sweeps: the Department of Public Works and the police department. Launched in partnership with four of San Francisco’s most notorious purveyors of greed and neoliberalism the Yerba Buena Community Benefit District (CBD), the East Cut CBD, the Fisherman’s Wharf CBD, and the Union Square Business Improvement District (BID).

The irony of using these private corporations as a substitute for any kind of actual community support is especially poignant coming from the city itself. The Mayor’s Office, which spends tens of thousands of dollars subsidizing the creation of new CBDs, and offers a “plethora of services” to support them, knows very well that these organizations represent only one set of interests — big businesses.

CBDs, of which BIDs are one type, are private corporations created by, funded by and accountable to only the largest property owners in the districts to which they lay claim. In elections on BIDs, which happen every time one is created or renewed, ballots are weighted according to the size and value of a property owner’s property. So the more property you own, the bigger your vote, and the more responsive the BID is to your needs. In the last election for the Yerba Buena CBD, it received more than half of its votes from just five property owners: four large corporations and the city itself. The vast majority of people whose day-to-day lives are actually affected by BIDs are renters and community members who have no control over the creation, funding, or decision-making of the BID.

This matters because BIDs are using their false image as community representatives to justify policing some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. BIDs narrow the range of activities permitted in public spaces to those directly conducive to consumption, and all else becomes criminalized — especially the activities of poor and unhoused people. These four BIDs alone spent over $5 million last year on security. Each one hired off-duty cops and private security to harass poor and unhoused people who dared to stay in San Francisco’s public spaces. The Union Square BID has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars installing a camera surveillance network, and the Fisherman’s Wharf CBD harassed people for sitting or lying down 2,565 times last year.

This is only the latest in a long line of government policies BIDs have supported to further marginalize and punish San Francisco’s poorest residents. The Union Square BID testified in favor of San Francisco’s sit-lie ban back in 2010. More recently, five BIDs pushed the city to support a conservatorship law giving police more power to violate the civil rights of unhoused people as part of the Clean and Safe Coalition. If it was not clear enough already, the support of BIDs leaves no room for doubt: this program is a campaign to rid downtown of poor and unhoused people so that holiday shoppers will even further enrich the bottom lines of corporate San Francisco.
INTRODUCING...
STREET SHEET LOVE

Tim J noticed a problem living in San Francisco: while the city has poured hundreds of millions into trying to solve the homeless problem, more action needed to be taken for those that are in need. He was a regular reader of Street Sheet, so he knew that this paper puts money directly into the pockets of those able to work for it, and he knew from talking to vendors that selling the paper made a huge impact on them.

“I created Street Sheet Love after years of hearing stories from vendors who have struggled to sell Sheets, as many vendors can go a whole day without selling a single one,” said Tim. So he started brainstorming about how to raise the profile of this newspaper, and came up with a bright idea. He decided to produce little Street Sheet pins to distribute to readers! How it works is that readers can collect five editions of the paper, and then can trade them in for a free pin!

“Many San Franciscan residents don’t know the story behind Street Sheets, nor the stories behind the individuals selling them. I hope that this will help build awareness for these wonderful people.”

Street Sheet has been in circulation for 30 years, and is the longest continuously published street newspaper in the world. With the help of around 250 vendors, we get 30,000 papers out to readers like you every month!

“I wanted to make sure that whatever project I started translated into money in the vendor’s pockets, either through raising awareness of Street Sheet or raising empathy for who the vendors are. The trade-in system is direct proof that money made a huge impact on them.

“Many San Francisco residents don’t know the story behind Street Sheets, nor the stories behind the individuals selling them. I hope that this will help build awareness for these wonderful people.”

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Visit STREETSHEETLOVE.COM to trade in your papers and get a free Street Sheet pin!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SF Then</th>
<th>SF Now</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>too expensive</td>
<td>way too expensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>muni bus</td>
<td>google bus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbary Coast</td>
<td>Milk Toast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>homeless camp at City Hall</td>
<td>homeless washed off Mkt. St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>live on a houseboat</td>
<td>live in a car</td>
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<tr>
<td>$2 lunch at 16th &amp; Mission citizens</td>
<td>$20 toast - same corner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emperor Norton</td>
<td>Emperor Ellison</td>
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<tr>
<td>freaks all come to SF</td>
<td>freaks all go to East Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anything goes</td>
<td>everything for sale</td>
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<tr>
<td>yellow cabs in traffic apartments</td>
<td>Ubers in gridlock</td>
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<tr>
<td>artists with soul</td>
<td>Techies with money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smiles</td>
<td>Frowns</td>
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</tbody>
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OUR WHEELS, OUR HOME: RV DWELLERS FIGHT TO STAY OFF THE STREETS

Mirjam Washuus

As of April 2019, over 1,800 San Franciscans were living in their vehicles. This is an increase of almost 600 people (49 %) since 2017 and simultaneously an undercount according to the point-in-time count itself. That is nearly 2,000 people sleeping, eating, fighting illnesses, helping neighbors, raising children, going to work and school from inside a tin box with very limited, if any, access to water and electricity. So, they are dependent on its community (both City and neighbors) to provide support as in any other community.

In the Ingleside neighborhood, this support is currently being embodied by way of the upcoming “vehicle triage center,” the first resource created for people living in vehicles. The center will have 30 available parking spots until a number of low income units will be built at the location in less than a year. This is a small step in a different direction than has been seen before now, as the support from the City has mainly consisted of parking restrictions, citations and repeated towing of people’s vehicular home.

These approaches are thoroughly problematic as they merely pose as extra challenges for people in vehicles to cope with. Fines and towing fees of people’s vehicular homes are disproportionate, leaving people with nothing and looping them into a downwards spiral- and sometimes eventually into the streets.

Many vehicularly housed residents report that they are not being notified about citations and that their vehicles/ homes are often towed unwarranted. One woman had her vehicle taken during a period of time when her mother was sick in the hospital. Another man had his trailer destroyed by the Department of Public Works, while his belongings were “bagged and tagged” and thrown into a trash compactor. Several of the surrounding neighbors were present to confirm that the belongings were in fact his, and even when he showed up to claim it, the “cleaning” continued.

RV DWELLERS FIGHT TO STAY OFF THE STREETS

On October 30, over 400 individuals locked up in Santa Rita Jail staged a one-day hunger and workstoppage strike to fight back against the inhumane conditions they’re subjected to. The group had a list of 26 demands relating to their inhumane treatment, such as the jail providing more cleaning supplies to maintain sanitary conditions, access to lawyers, better and more nutritious food, daily exercise and recreation time, and an end to price gouging for commissary items and phone calls.

The demand list stated, “Santa Rita needs to evolve its system and methods away from this punitive justice system and demoralizing, inhumane treatment of citizens and drug addicts to a modernized system and methods of restorative justice!”

Santa Rita Jail, located in Dublin, has a longstanding history of human rights abuses and currently has multiple lawsuits pending against it. Since 2014, forty-two individuals have died at the hands of the state while in custody at Santa Rita Jail. Recently a pregnant woman was kept in an isolation cell at Santa Rita and was allowed to give birth without medical assistance or help, further highlighting the cruel and inhumane treatment those inside experience.

In retaliation to this show of power by the inmates, individuals who participated in the one day strike have reported being threatened with and given 30-day additions to their sentences.

For every incarcerated individual at Santa Rita, the jail spends nearly $75,000 per year. The population, totaling nearly 4,000 individuals, results in millions of dollars being invested into cages rather than community.

One of the issues brought to the forefront by the strikers was people struggling with substance use, who are then locked up, aren’t provided with the services or medical treatment needed. Instead, the jail leaves them to deal with withdrawal symptoms themselves, putting them at risk of injury or death. Jail should not be used to fill the need for drug rehabilitation services, housing and mental health services.

“One day strike at notorious Santa Rita Jail

Ella Rose-Kessler

“People don’t realize that that [detox] can kill you. When I got arrested and went to Santa Rita they tapered me way too fast and it could have killed me,” said an anonymous participant in a focus group led by the Our City Our Home campaign. “My doctor wouldn’t even sign up for my dose switch, 200 to 10 mg a day taper. When I get out, I know I’m gonna use, by the end of the week I’d be “detoxed” but withdrawing... Not everybody needs to go to jail.”

The majority of the individuals locked up in Santa Rita are from Alameda County, which includes Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Oakland, Hayward, Pleasanton and more. It’s imperative that as people who exist in these cities that we are in solidarity with those locked up in Santa Rita, their fight for humane treatment and the larger goal of prison abolition.
A grandmother in our Housing Justice Work Group reported to us the death of her grandchild, who prema-
turely died in the womb due to the mother’s stress of being homeless and on the streets. This news emerged in
the midst of a three-year battle with the City of San Francisco to make
pregnant people eligible for family
homeless services. Prior to our recent
win, the policy was that only those
who were in their third trimester of
pregnancy were eligible for homeless
family services. While we know the
importance of the first few months of
pregnancy, how the mother’s health
directly correlates to the child’s health
and sets up healthy development for
life, until this month the City remained
steadfast in affirming this antiquated, arbitrary practice.

During our annual Dia de los Muertos celebration, we wanted to hon-
or families, children and their parents
whose lives are cut short due to the
trauma of being unhoused. This year,
we took to the streets in a procession
from the Coalition on Homelessness to
City Hall with dozens of supporters
and an altar complete with candles, food,
marigolds and sugar skulls.

On our way to City Hall, we
marched through the farmer’s market,
drawing attention and awareness to an
often forgotten subgroup of people: families experiencing homelessness. We
briefly stopped at Compass Family
Services and heard from Mary Kate Ba-
calao, their Development and Commu-
nications Director, about the many sub-
sidies which are awarded to families
living in public housing units when there are emergency situa-
tions. For example, in cases of domestic violence, we want to be able to ensure
that families are able to transfer units quickly so that they can be safe and
healthy. Another example is if they face
the threat of eviction for a change in
family size.

Our fourth and final demand was
specifically to Mayor London Breed
seat the Our City Our Home Oversight
Committee. The successful measure
from the November 2018 ballot, Propo-
sition C, which practically doubles
the City’s budget for homelessness, is
held up in court right now because of the
rich oligarchy of white men repre-
sented by the Howard Jarvis Taxpay-
ers Association, California Business
Roundtable and California Apartment
Association, who want to stifle the will
of the people and hold up lifesaving
money while people die on our streets.

To make matters worse, some of
this frozen money which was given
by Salesforce up front, has already
been spent by the Mayor on single-
adult shelter beds. While we know
San Francisco has a severe shortage of
shelter beds, the Our City Our Home
allocations fund housing, the solution
to homelessness. Also, Our City Our
Home has spending requirements, so a
certain percentage of money is required
to go to families. As of now, not a cent
of the money Mayor Breed has spent
has gone to families. We need the Our
City Our Home Oversight Committee to
be formed to hold the Mayor, or anyone
else, accountable to how it should be
spent.

While all these issues are ong-
ing, we at the Coalition will continue to
fight for families experiencing home-
lessness. All of our demands come from
the people at our open Housing Justice
Work Group meetings from 12 noon to 2
p.m. every Tuesday. Stop by our new
office at 280 Turk St. to see how we
organize, advocate and fight for all to
have safe, dignified housing.

In a compromise, two competing
measures on mental health will not
go to the ballot and instead Mental
Health SF will go through the legisla-
tive process. The very contentious
process ended in awkward hugs as the
city family shared the stage on the
steps of city hall in a press conference
announcing the deal on November 12th 2019.

Supervisors Ronen and Haney pro-
gressed going to the ballot with Mental
Health SF, a plan they came up with that
moves SF closer towards having
universal mental health care by open-
ing up a 24 hour central access cen-
ter, an office of coordinated care and
creates a new oversite body. Breed,
stating displeasure with the measure,
entered into negotiations with the Su-
pervisors and then walked out, even
after several concessions were given.
She stated she did not want said
measure to go to the ballot. However
she then introduced a counter mea-
sure named Urgent Care SF that was
particularly nasty to be placed on the
same ballot. It did some things that
she was already planning on doing
but it also prioritized enforcement of
possession of drugs and put SDPD in
charge of homeless outreach teams,
street medicine and mobile crisis. It
also had a one way poison pill that
would kill the Ronen/Haney measure if
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Mental Health SF except to
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the measure, which may not have
been a bad thing, given the Depart-
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disarray and the lack of faith in their
ability to handle much more.

Here are the key elements of
Mental Health SF that was agreed to
but still needs to go through Board of
Supervisors to be passed:

+ Serves homeless people and
uninsured people under 500% of
federal poverty level (over 500% will
pay fee for service), as well as those
receiving Medical and HealthySF, but

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budget win: 36 rapid-rehousing subsidi-
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homelessness into a home of their own.

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receiving Medical and HealthySF, but
prioritizes homeless people with both substance use and severe mental illnesses.

+ Creates governing principles from harm reduction approach to low barrier access and customer focused services. It also mentions involuntary treatment only after other attempts at voluntary services have been made and in accordance with state law. It also has as a principle that housing must be prioritized to the priority population under Mental Health SF.

Establishes a mental health service center that must be open 24 hours. As part of the compromise, it will be located at 1580 Howard, the current service center instead of having a new one at SFGH. It will bump up the services there – keep the pharmacy but expand the site from treatment referral and wait list management to having more intensive services on-site such as transportation, urgent care, case management, and psychiatric assessment.

+ Establishes an Office of Coordinated Care to oversee the delivery system. The functions will include real time inventory of program and service availability, case management including filling the unmet need for intensive case managers (broken down into three levels of care depending on acuity level), coordination with psychiatric emergency services and jail, and data collection. There is also a marketing component to get word out.

+ Establishes a Crisis Response Team that hopes to replace police response to folks in psychiatric crisis. This shall operate 24/7, and will have an ability to field calls directly and through dispatch.

+ Mental Health and Substance Abuse expansion is called for but not directed, with the idea to eliminate wait times across the system. A working group will make recommendations for what this should look like.

+ Establishes an Office of Private Health Insurance Accountability to advocate on behalf of privately insured individuals who are not getting the coverage they need, in conjunction with the city attorney. This includes the provision of insurance navigators, collecting data, advising folks on resources.

+ Forms a Working Group to oversee the operation, make recommendations on funding, and issue reports. This is a split group with 11 seats, 6 appointed by Board and 5 by Mayor.

Today, folks with severe mental illnesses are not getting their needs met and are frequently used for political gain under calls to lock them up. In reality, they are locked out of care. In order to turn this around, they need a diverse robust system of care without waits. Street Sheet’s organization Coalition on Homelessness is currently conducting a needs assessment of folks with mental health and substance use issues, and the hope is we can utilize Mental Health SF as a catalyst to forge the changes that our folks are calling for. As of yet, there is not funding attached to this measure, but a side agreement with the Mayor includes a signed statement that funds will be found. To do it right, it may mean returning to the ballot for revenue. The Mayor plans on putting a bond measure to pay for part of it, and there is talk of a CEO tax to pay for operating costs. The estimate is this will cost $500 million, but the price to ensure we have enough treatment capacity for all who need it is clearly much higher, given there are 4,000 people who are homeless, mentally ill and using substances that have been identified by Department of Public Health, and the cost of beds can be as high as $250,000 per year in the very highest levels of care. Community care is both more effective and a much lower cost than institutions, but there are upfront costs of securing facilities to that as well. Mental Health SF could be key to putting in place a responsive healing client centered system, but a lot more work needs to be done. This must include continuing to push for housing – as this is as important a mental health intervention as any.

**SUICIDE RISK FACTORS:**
There is no single cause for suicide. Suicide occurs when stressors and health issues converge to create an experience of hopelessness and despair. Depression is the most common condition associated with suicide.

- Health Factors
- Environmental Factors
- Historical Factors

**SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS:**
When concerned a person might be suicidal look out for a change in behavior or the presence of entirely new behaviors after a painful event, loss or change.

**TALK:**
If a person talks about killing themselves
feeling hopeless
having no reason to live
being a burden to others
feeling trapped
unbearable pain

**BEHAVIOR:**
Behaviors that might signal risk, especially if related to a painful event, loss or change.
Increased use of alcohol or drugs
withdrawing from activities
isolating from family
sleeping too much or too little
aggression
fatigue

**MOOD:**
People who are considering suicide often display one or more of the following:
depression
anxiety
loss of interest
irritability
humiliation/shame

If you are considering suicide, you can call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK. You can also call Trans Lifeline at (877) 565-8860.
Sells 20 Street Sheets a day. If he’s lucky. Needs $26.00 for a room for the night. Otherwise, goes to the shelter. If no bed, he can sit up and sleep. Get a shower early in the morning. Gets lots of pennies. A man brings him a roll, unpeels it, and pours 500 pennies into his jar. “Why don’t you just give him a $5.00 bill?” his wife asks. “Cause I want to give him something to do.” His mom taught him to read and write. never went to school. Likes to read stories and poetry. Been selling Street Sheet for 10 years now. The cops no longer harass him; “cause he doesn’t do drugs. Doesn’t do alcohol. Besides, the sidewalk’s public space.”

“I’m Moslem. Moslems don’t do harm.”

The people in the condos at Opera Plaza, some drop coins into his jar. A lady at the corner panhandles. Doesn’t compete with Eric. Some give her a quarter, a dollar bill. “Yeah, and where’s that?” she retorts. To Eric. His kind here.”

Pointing to folks who are homeless.” The paper provides a way to talk to people who are homeless.”

Davis also asked how else the church offers support to those experiencing homelessness, and got the word about some plans for the holidays. The church will erect a Giving Tree where folks can take what they need and hang offerings of necessities like socks, gloves and hygiene products for those who need them. They also organize a Thanksgiving event every year and were able to redistribute 3,000 pounds of food over the past year.

“Part of the struggle for us is how to not just duplicate efforts,” said Lee. “While also not turning people away or shuffling them around to other places or providers.”
Volunteers Needed: December 2nd and 3rd
Hot Soup from Warm Hearts to Good Souls: In conjunction with Faithforce Friends (part of Salesforce) we'll be giving out hot, delicious, kosher Matzo Ball Soup and personal hygiene kits.

- Dec 2 (730pm til we’re done): Help make matzo balls and assemble hygiene kits.
- Dec 3 (1130am to 1pm): Give out soup and kits to the community.

Feel free to arrive and leave anytime during these events.

REMEMBERING
BERNARD
WILHITE

Sweetheart
(In Remembrance of Bernard Wilhite)
It’s hard to be a sweetheart in a city, a world so hardened
But that’s what you were, showing that smile that you just couldn’t hide
We didn’t know each other long but somehow it seemed that your smile was your mother’s smile your grandmother’s smile
the women in your life giving shape to your life
the best of us often carry the most pain
Our hands trying to give shape to what is misshapen
And you carried yours, along with your smile and grace expressed in tears you kept hidden
And now you are an ancestor
We carry your memory as you carried your smile in a world
Where it’s so hard to be a sweetheart
— Tony Robles

REMEMBERING
LITTLE
EDDIE

Eddie you will be so missed in the Hospitality House Community Arts Program. Everyone was so fond of your sense of humour, kindness and passion for art. You showed us all what it meant to live the life of a dedicated artist with the spirit of the 60s always visible in your hand painted jackets and top hats. You truly were part of the family here in this studio and you will live on forever through your poetry and art work.
— Janet Williams

Bernard Wilhite was invaluable to me personally during the Prop C, Our City, Our Home campaign. He was the first one to show up and the last one to go home day in and day out and always saw to it that he was an extra pair of eyes and ears when managing such an enormous field team. I will always remember his earnest willingness to tackle every task asked of him and his ability to think a few steps ahead of what my needs, as Field Director, might be. Bernard quickly became a friend, affectionately calling me Mackie and kept in touch after the campaign ended. The last contact I had with Bernard was crafting a reference letter for him to get a job doing outreach for the homeless community. We talked about his intrinsic personal knowledge of the struggles of homelessness and his passion in working with the homeless community. Bernard’s laugh, great big smile and dedication will be missed.
— Mackenzie Ewing

I am really sad to hear about Bernard’s passing. I met Bernard over one year ago when I was working on the Yes on C campaign with Coalition on Homelessness. It was a very vigorous and stressful campaign, and Bernard played a big role in supporting that work through data entry. It was a tedious task but Bernard was still there everyday at the campaign, filled with passion and willingness to learn.
— Winnie Chen

hey bernard,
we crossed paths briefly during prop c
we both knew the change it could bring to our city
i’m sad to learn that you will not be here
to see the fruits of our labors
know that you had taken part in sowing the seeds
so san francisco will open its eyes to homeless folk
you are patient, generous, and always greeted me when i walked into the coalition during its frenziest week
i honor you today
— Vida K

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HOMICIDE
$25,000 REWARD

The San Francisco Police Department has authorized a $25,000 reward for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of the suspect(s) responsible for the murders of Lindsay Elaine McCollum and Eddie Wayne Tate.

On 12/16/2016 at approximately 8:46PM, a shooting occurred on the northwest corner of 16th Street and South Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco resulting in the murders of Lindsay Elaine McCollum, 27 years old, and Eddie Wayne Tate (AKA: Tennessee), 51 years old. McCollum and Tate were shot while inside a wooden box they used as living quarters on the street. The San Francisco Police Department is offering a reward to individuals who provide information leading to the arrest and prosecution of the killer(s).

Anyone with information regarding this case may contact Sergeant Mark Hutchings #904 of the San Francisco Police Department Homicide Detail at (415) 553-7976.

Person(s) with information about this case wishing to remain anonymous may call the SFPD Tip Line at (415) 575-4444 or by sending a text message to Text-A-Tip (TIP411). Begin the text message with SFPD.

SFPD CASE #161027331